

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
DAVID B. SMITH
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP
100 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Michael, Best & Friedrich LLP
RECEIVED

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

DOCKETING
MILWAUKEE, WI

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **31 OCT 2006**

Applicant's or agent's file reference

091395-9431

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/US05/09857

International filing date (day/month/year)

24 March 2005 (24.03.2005)

Priority date (day/month/year)

25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC: **B62D 1/10**(2006.01);**G05G 1/12**(2006.01)

USPC: 74/552

Applicant

TIMKEN US CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Date of completion of this opinion

02 October 2006 (02.10.2006)

Authorized officer

Chong H. Kim

Telephone No. ***

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

**CITE REFERENCES ON
RELATED APPLICATIONS?**

☒ Docketed on: **11/21/07**

☐ No References Cited

to: **11/31/07**
Is on **RLK CMC**'s dock.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US05/09857

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US05/09857

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-20 YES

Claims NONE NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims 1-20 YES

Claims NONE NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims 1-20 YES

Claims NONE NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a steering wheel mounting assembly comprising two stationary rings, each having a bearing, one of the rings being fixed to a vehicle frame; a steering hub having a spindle with a radial flange, wherein the spindle is connected to a steering shaft and the flange is connected to a steering wheel, wherein the spindle has bearing raceways to engage with the bearings of the rings, and wherein the radial flange has at least one opening with a bearing surface to receive at least one friction roller assembly; wherein the friction roller assembly includes a shaft and a third bearing, and rotates relative to the bearing surface of the opening.

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.